

61 Mech Monthly

61 Mech Veterans Association

61 Meg Maandeliks

61 Meg Veterane Vereniging



April 2024



Die “April Fool” dag wat dodelik ernstig was.

Die Kapelaan as Soldaat

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AANDAG

61 Mech Veterane en vriende!

Ons wil van tyd-tot-tyd belangrike inligting oor ons Vereniging se aktiwiteite aan jou deurgee.

Stuur asseblief jou inligting na:

membership@61Mech.org.za

- **Naam**
- **Kontaknommer**
- **Dorp woonagtig**
- **Epos adres**
- **Tydperk by 61 Mech**



Membership of 61 MVA

Robert Torrani

What are the advantages of being a member.

We have over 8000 members on our Facebook Group. Only a small portion convert to membership of the 61 MVA. Being on our Facebook page does not mean you are a member of 61 MVA and because you were part of 61 Mech, the MVA is for members to continue being a part of the brotherhood.

What value is there to being a 61 MVA member and keeping your membership in good standing by paying the annual fees? Some join as they need to be members to purchase some of the memorabilia and then don't renew.

With us all being different, I will give my take. *We all may look at value differently* when it comes to ourselves. So, the only tangible physical thing about being a member is my Red Messie. Being a member allows me to purchase some clothing specifically for members. I can quantify this value.

This now is the quick thoughts with regards the value of my and the collectives' membership fees, I cannot quantify:

- 1) It has enabled the 61 MVA to record our history through the books produced.
- 2) It enables us to hold a memorial parade annually to remember our fallen and their families.
- 3) We have a display at the museum recording our history and educating people of our history, without a recording of our history, the time we spent at the unit would be meaningless as the reasons we were there would not be told.
- 4) We have a website and in process of upgrading it to make it more interactive and user friendly again making people aware of our history.
- 5) We spent over R90 000 last year assisting qualifying

members in need and within our constitution.

6) We have "Skouerskuur's" where our members get together and talk and socialise which helps each individual there.

7) We have a presence in the veteran world and all know of 61 Mech.

8) We have been assisting members receive their medals, it has been challenging and carries on being but we continue working on it.

9) There have been the tours back to the battlefields organised by the MVA.

10) The re-issue of Geel Messies to people that earned them and lost them, and arranging for members that had never received them.

11) I have saved this for last as how does one quantify the value of this and this is done through the contributions and input of members via membership fees, participation and keeping the MVA relevant. "The Honouring Our Fallen 61 Mech Brothers", how do you quantify what this means to family and brothers of our members who have paid the ultimate price by remembering them and recognising their part in our history and ensuring they receive the recognition they deserve.

So these are a quick few thoughts on my membership fees. So what do I get out of it? Well I get the satisfaction of belonging and ensuring I make a difference in my brother's life where I can. I am also contributing to ensuring our history and unit will always be remembered. It is not always about what I receive but what my brothers get when they need it.

So those that pay their memberships regularly, thank you and as you can see by watching the Facebook page, each one makes a difference as a collective in the 61 MVA.

61 Mech Jaarlikse Ledegeld

Die afgelope paar jaar (Na Covid) word die druk al hoe groter op individuele finansies asook dié van besighede. ondervind almal uiters moeilike finansiële omstandighede.

Hierdie moeilike finansiële klimaat het ook 'n groot invloed op ons kontantvloei in die Vereniging en dit noop ons om baie omsigtig met ons beskikbare fondse om te gaan. Een van ons inkomstebronne is ons ledegelde wat jaarliks betaalbaar is. Ons vra u vriendelik om hiervoor te begroot. Die geld kan ook in paalemente betaal word.

Ons ledegelde is tans:

R300-00 per jaar

R2,000-00 vir 10 jaar

R5,000-00 vir lewenslank

Betalings kan gemaak word in ons 61 Mech rekening en wel by:

Rekening naam:	61 Mech Battalion Group Veterans Association
Bank:	Standard Bank SA,
Universele Kode:	006305
Rekeningnommer:	00 329 366 1
Verwysing:	Ledegeld + naam

Stuur dan asseblief u bewys van betaling na: admin@61mech.org.za



LANDWYE SKOUERSKUUR TE GARIEP 3 TOT 5 MEI 2024



Program:

Vrydag 3 Mei 2024

14h00 - “Stop, Stapuit”., Arriveer en Kampopslaan...Rondomverdediging en lyne.

16h30 - Vertrek uit Kampterrein, Sundowners en Amptelike Verwelkoming by uitkykpunt olv Kampkommandant en Wayne Riddell.

17h45 - Kuier om Kampvure en Skouerskuur. Elkeen sorg vir eie ete. Gee jouself oor aan Aankomsaggressie.....

Saterdag 4 Mei 2024

08h30 - Bidparade en littelosmaak olv Kampkommandant.

08h45 - 2,4 Km ry, stap, draf, hardloop of saamlag. Waterpunt Jasper Cloete en Le Brun (Bring jou snaakste hoofdeksel of uniform waarin jy hierdie operasie kan uitvoer. Daar is pryse.) Kom ons maak dit fun.

09h15 - 11h00 VTB

11h00 - Veteranesake olv Exco. Terugvoering oor projekte en algemene groepsbespreking oor behoeftes van lede, verwagtinge en die

pad vorentoe. Informeel onder die bome....net saamkuier en chill.

12h00 - VTB

16h00 - Aanmeld vir seremonie by damwal, marsorders en vertrek.- Olv 61 Riders....ons gaan soos staatshoofde in 'n konvooi begelei word. Voertuie in middel en motorfietse voor en agter in konvooi. Bring 61 vlae en baniere... kom ons gaan groot. - Kampkommandant.

16h30 - “Sunset Call” ,strooi van Poppies en heildronk op gestorwe makkers. “Last Call” - Gerard van Rooyen op sy konsertina. Gaan moerse Spesiaal wees.

17h30 - Kampvure brand, Saamkuier en Braai.

19h30 - 61 Kampvuurmusiek - en Stoepstories - Olv 61 Vlakvarke

Sondag 5 Mei 2024

06h30- Oggendsinjaal en Bidparade olv Kampkommandant en Kapelaan

07h00- Groet en vertrek op eie tyd, eie bevel en eie teiken

WAT JY MOET WEET:

Elkeen sorg vir sy eie etes, drinkgoed en verblyf.

Bespreek self by Forever Resorts Gariep of verblyfplekke in omgewing.

Bring eie eetgerei.

Bring elkeen 'n sak hout of twee.

Kampstoele.

Casseroles om Vleis in af te haal.

Rooster.

Kontant..die 61 Winkel is hele naweek oop.

Saterdagandete is 'n Bring en Braai en elkeen sorg vir sy eie mense. Daar is heelwat manne wat hul gades en gesin saambring.

Bring ook jou persoonlikheid, humor en baie geld, maar los jou cammos en Blou Bul trui by die huis asb...

Wat Daarna: Reis veilig huiswaarts op eie tyd en eie teiken met mooi herinneringe.

Kampkomandant: - Hannes Lombaard

Waterpunte: - Hennie Strauss en Anthony Poulton

PTI: - Werner Botes

61 Mobiele Winkel:- Wayne Riddell en Tania West

61 Exco Pryse vir naweek-Kevin West

Damwalseremonie:- Andrew Whitaker

Stoepstories en Vlakvarke:- Gerard C. Van Rooyen

Demo Bonzai Olifant Tank:- Monty Galloway

Aankondiger - Rob Torrani

Kapelaan:- Hennie HP Ferreira

Verlede Jaar



ECHOES OF THE PAST: THE QUALITY OF LIFE IMPACT ON VISITORS TO MILITARY MEMORIALS

DR DEWALD VENTER

'n Verkorte in Afrikaans vertaalde weergawe van die artikel.

**AFRICAN JOURNAL OF HOSPITALITY, TOURISM AND LEISURE, VOLUME 8.
(2019)**

Die stuk handel oor die positiewe invloed wat besoeke aan Militêre museums en by implikasie veterane byeenkomse inhou vir die bou van 'n kwaliteit lewe.(QoL). Dr Dewald Venter verwys pertinent na ... 61 Mechanized Battalion Memorial Needle in Saxonworld Johannesburg, die South African Air Force Memorial, en die Gunners National Memorial in Potchefstroom.

Sy data is versamel vanaf 237 respondente wat een of meer van die drie gedenktekens gedurende in 'n jaar besoek het. Sy stud-

ie dui aan dat die positiewe ervaring wat die besoekers beleef het 'n direkte liniêre verband het met hul lewenskwaliteit. Dit geld vir persone wat persoonlik, weens sy geskiedenis daarby aanklank vind, sy familie of die belangstellende buitestaander. Dr. Venter ondersteun sy studie model deur te verwys na verskeie navorsers wat onder andere lewenskwaliteit (QoL = quality of life) na besoeke aan militêre erfenis terreine ondersoek het.

Militêre gedenktekens staan as 'n herinnering aan daardie soldate aan wie hulle toegewy is, sodat toekomstige geslagte hulle opoffering kan onthou. Militêre gedenktekens se belangrikheid is in direkte verhouding tot die mate wat mense steeds vir hulle omgee en die gevalle soldate wat hulle verteenwoordig en vereer.

Militêre gedenktekens weerspieël die tydsvak waarin hulle is gebou en vang die kollektiewe herinneringe en begrip vas (waardes, praktyke, idees en houdings) van diegene wat dit gebou het met betrekking tot die oorlog en dapperheid gedurende 'n spesifieke tydperk.

Venter en Kruger (2017:3) noem dat individue na plekke reis omdat hulle aangetrokke voel tot iets en 'n begeerte het om meer te weet of te ervaar. So 'n besoek lei tot positiewe evaluering van hul lewens.

Venter en Burger (2018) beklemtoon dat 'n positiewe effek (ervarings) in een lewensdomein kan oorspoel na 'n ander lewensdomein. Sirgy (2012) het bewys dat hoe be-





The National Gunners' Memorial | The Gunners' Association of South Africa



The South African Air Force Association (SAAFA)

langriker 'n lewensdomein vir 'n individu is, hoe groter is die uitkrangeffek in hul QoL.

Gebaseer op die demografiese bevindinge, was 'n tipiese militêre gedenkbesoeker manlik en ouer as 56 jaar, was Afrikaans sprekend, getroud en het graad 12 voltooi. Hy het gedien in die Suid-Afrikaanse Weermag (SAW) of Suid-Afrikaanse Nasionale Weermag Force (SANW). Daarbenewens het hy 'n militêre gedenkteken ten minste een keer in die vorige ses maande die gedenkteken besoek saam met iemand wat hom vergesel het.

Gevolgtrekking

Die navorser som dit as volg op: "The findings point towards a continuous positive spill-over from one domain to the next,

Therefore, the research achieved its objective by determining the relationship between travel motives, life domains and QoL of visitors attending a military memorial."

Annual Maintenance of the 61 Mech Memorial and Museum

Robert Torrani



On Saturday the 16th April we had a maintenance and cleaning day at the Ditsong Museum which is home to our Memorial and our internal display room.

During this exercise we took all our memorabilia out of the display cabinets and dusted and cleaned all the display units and items on

display. We also discussed further improvements, new display cabinets etc that will allow us to put more items out on display that are currently in storage for eg the donation from General Savides of his collection of miniature models of Ratels and equipment.

Then at 11h00 we did a small ceremony and

hoisted the 61 MVA flag, this flag as well as the gunners & other units flags will be raised daily by the staff at the museum. This is a new tradition and the first flag raised was the 61 MVA flag. The Flagpoles are around the 61Mech Memorial Needle with the 61 MVA flag residing on the flagpole closest the Lomba Clock.

People who attended the cleaning and flag hoisting were Johan Booyesen, Manus Myburg, Wayne Riddel, Robert Torrani, Tammy Booyesen with her twin daughters Kiara & Kayleigh also pitching in with the cleaning. For the hoisting of the flag, there were members of public as well as members of the other units who were also cleaning their displays.



What Happened in April?

***Skouerskuur @Cottesloe Moth Cottages
on 6 April.***



John Barnard - Geen skouerskuur ...
net omdat ons mag.

ANZAC DAY IN DURBAN

Dr Anthony Turton

ANZAC Day was celebrated on 25th April with parades in Australia and New Zealand. In most of those parades, South African veterans played an active role. Many of those veterans are 61MVA members. One particularly strong effort was made by SAMVOA, which was an active part of the parade in various cities. In direct support of this friendship 61MVA KZN branch participated in a formal parade at NMR in Durban. 61 Riders gave their support as they always do.



But what is the importance of ANZAC day?

We all know of the Great War, fought between the British Allies and German forces between 1914 and 1918. That was a trench war that saw the first use of the tank, designed specifically to overcome the static defenses provided by barbed wire and the interlocking arcs of machine gun fire. However, there was a second theatre of that same war, because while the European Allies (Britain and France) were dealing with the Germans, they decided to also sort out the Ottoman Turks.

The Ottoman Empire was vast and powerful, spanning Southeastern Europe, West Asia and

North Africa, from the 14th to the 20th century. This empire largely replicated the eastern portion of the previous Roman Empire, so it was physically big and militarily powerful. During the latter phase of this empire, the Ottoman Turks engaged in genocide against the Armenians, Assyrians and Greeks, so there were many scores to be settled.

This was attempted during WW1, when the Allied Powers sought to occupy and partition the Ottoman Empire, which set the stage for the Battle of Gallipoli. On 25 April 1915 the Allies landed a force on the Gallipoli Peninsula. British forces landed at Cape Heles, while the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) were placed on shore at Gaba Tepe

Headland (also known as Kabatepe). The beach on which the amphibious force landed later became known as Anzac Cove. The French force was a diversion, landing at Kum Kale on the Dardanelle side of the peninsula. They later joined the British at Helles. The land offensive was needed because previous naval efforts to attack Constantinople (Istanbul today) had been futile.

After landing the Allied forces met dogged resistance from a well-entrenched Ottoman army. Artillery and machinegun fire was intense, mirroring the France and Belgium theaters of operation. The embattled invading force was unable to make progress and unhygienic conditions took their toll. More soldiers succumbed from illness than from wounds, like the Anglo Boer War. The embattled Allies could not advance, and were slowly whittled down to a meagre presence of shell-shocked and diseased men.

This persisted for months until August 1915 when reinforcements arrived at Suvla Bay. At a place called Lone Pine the depleted ANZAC force was eventually successful after brutal fighting saw two Australian Light Horse brigades cut down by accurate fire. In similar vein the New Zealand force was decimated at Chunuk Bair north of ANZAC Cove. The ultimate outcome of the Battle of Gallipoli was a stalemate, for neither side was victorious, but the ANZAC forces had established a name for themselves as a resilient and resourceful entity.

The strategic importance of the whole campaign was that the Ottoman Empire was eventually defeated, but slowly and piece by piece. Just one of those pieces remains a festering

wound to this day, for the Ottoman provinces outside of the Arabian Peninsula were secretly partitioned between France and Britain in terms of the Sykes-Picot Agreement of 1916. This was part of a bigger strategy to defeat the Ottomans politically, in the face of the militarily indecisive outcome of the Battle of Gallipoli. In terms of this agreement, Britain took control of what is today southern Israel and Palestine, Jordan and southern Iraq, with an enclave around Haifa and Acre to establish a port. France took control of southeastern Turkey, Kurdistan, Syria and Lebanon. Parts of Palestine fell under “international administration” in terms of Sykes-Picot.

To keep the Russians happy the Sazanov-Pauleologue Agreement became an addendum to Sykes-Picot. In terms of this agreement western Armenia, Constantinople, and the Turkish Straits, was to be left to the Russians. This is strategically significant today in the context of the Russo-Ukraine War.

In conclusion, the ANZAC forces were thrown into a hotly contested battlespace with limited means at their disposal. Despite their tactical disadvantage, they fought bravely and for many months, firmly establishing themselves as a respected fighting force in perpetuity. The festering sore created by the defeat of the Ottoman Turks has never been resolved, with its current manifestation being the Palestinian “problem” currently threatening the peace of a volatile and nuclear armed region. Politicians create wars fought by young soldiers, so let us remember their sacrifice, for they are true brothers in arms.



Anzak Day 25 April

Nieu Zealand

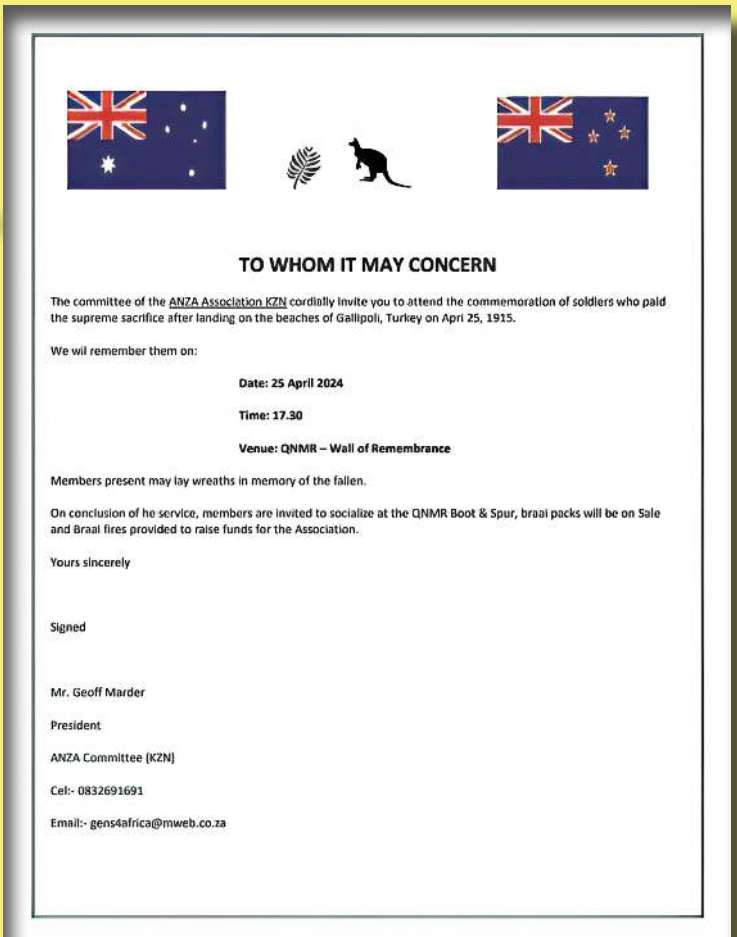


Nieu Zealand, the start of their Anzac Memorial Parade. Right in photo our very own PC Groenewald, ex Mech Pl Sgt with 61 and 1SAI and 61MVA member.

ATTENDING ANZAC PARADE KZN

Thursday 25 April 2024
QNMR at 17:00 (Queen Nandi Mounted Rifles
(QNMR)).

- 1...Mike Voulelis
- 2...Terry Gersbank
- 3...Andy Allers
- 4...Jan Olivier
- 5...Anthony Turton
- 6...Craig Benn for now
- 7...Peter Williams
- 8...Anton Muller
- 9...Tori Pulverenti
- 10.Matthew Everitt



Anzak Day 25 April Australia

John McCrum

Anzac day commemorates the Australia & New Zealand Army Corps landings on the Gallipoli peninsula during WW1. Over the years it has been used to honour & remember the sacrifices during all conflicts. Australia has also acknowledged the price paid by all Commonwealth & Allied forces and allowed them to honour their sacrifice, hence the participation of SAMVOA (South African Military Veterans Organisation of Australasia). There are several 61 Mech veterans now residing in Australia and each year we march to honour the price paid by our brothers in arms



Anzac day in Perth, John McCrum 87 & Troy Hosking 88.



61 MVV Aanlyn Winkel



Contact Kevin West
kevinwest@mweb.co.za

**61 MVA SKOUERSKUUR
GAUTENG REGION
AT ZWARTKOPS RACEWAY,
SAT 27TH APRIL.**

Race day program for the weekend.
Free entry to 61 Mech veterans only.
Sign in at the ticket office for VIP armband.
Bring and braai. cooler box, gazebo, deck chairs allowed.
Ben Smit will secure a section exclusively for 61 Mech guys at Turn 7 and get the fires lit from 12 noon.
Come and enjoy a Skouerskuur with a difference and enjoy a full day of racing.
VIP access gets you into the grid walk per race start as well



DON'T FORGET !!!

OPERATION SCEPTIC - SMOKESHELL 44TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION BLOEMFONTEIN

Programme

Friday 7 June 2024

From 18.00 Bring and Braai at Club Omuthiya (1SSB).

Saturday 8 June 2024

At 11.00 Parade, “geel messie” presentation, wreath laying.
Afternoon and evening Spit braai at the Tractor museum.

Sunday 9 June 2024

Morning Breakfast for those that are able to make it (venue to be announced).

Please note that this year’s event is for Smokeshell veterans and invited guests only.

Two sheep have again been donated for the Spit braai and our Bloemfontein veterans will organise salads.

Tea and coffee will be provided at Club Omuthiya after the parade on Saturday.

We have negotiated a discounted rate for accommodation at Reyneke Park.

Saturday 8 June from 11:00.

61 Mech skouerskuur and Smokeshell Remembrance. At Blaauwberg Cuca MOTH Shellhole, Killarney Raceway. Cash bar and Kitchen will be open for burgers, etc.

Smokeshell reunion program, there is also a get together in Cape Town on Saturday 8 June.

DON'T FORGET !!!

61 Mech Veterane Vereniging / Veterans Association

JAARLIKSE GEDENKDIENS / YEARLY MEMORIAL SERVICE

17 Augustus / August 2024

Ditsong Nasionale Museum vir Militêre Geskiedenis / Ditsong National Museum for Military History
Saxonwold, Johannesburg



**61 MECH OOS-KAAP SKOUERSKUUR. UITENHAGE.
BERET/BOSHOED SKOUERSKUUR**

You have been invited to come and Rub a Shoulder (Skouerskuur) at Uitenhage Club.

Date: **4 May**

Time: 11 Am to 12 Pm

Venue: Uitenhage Club, 8 Park Lane, (Just of Main Street)

Braai packs will be available on request at Uitenhage Club – R65

Salads and rolls will be available

Please RSVP as soon as possible as we need headcount to do salads and Uitenhage Club need to know how many braaipacks to cater for

Die “April Fool” dag wat dodelik ernstig was.

Elke jaar op 1 April word daar tradisioneel met mekaar die draak gestee. Maar 1 April 1989 was geen grap nie. Die “Nege Dag Oorlog” van 1 April tot 9 April was die laaste geveg van die SAW in SWA. Maar dit was heftig.

DIE AANLOOP EN VERLOOP VAN DIE 9 DAE OORLOG 1 - 9 APRIL 1989

Spesiale verteenwoordigers arriveer aan die begin van 1989 in Windhoek met groot verwagtinge vir Namibië se onafhanklikheid. Daar was kommer oor UNTAG ontplooiing wat nog nie in plek was nie, maar die wapenstilstand was in plek en die partye het hulself daartoe verbind.

Suid-Afrika berig SWAPO-magte wat vanaf Angola na Namibië oorgesteek het. UNTAG bevind dit as gewelddadige voorvalle en ver-

hoogde SWAPO-teenwoordigheid word aangemeld. UNTAG se ontplooiing was steeds onvoldoende weens beperkte hulpbronne. Die SA Minister van Buitelandse Sake oorweeg dit om die SAW te herontplooï as UNTAG nie die situasie kan beheer nie. 'n Dringende aanbeveling word gemaak om die SAW-beperking tydelik op te skort en hulle toe te laat om die polisie te ondersteun, gemonitor deur UNTAG-waarnemers.

'n Span amptenare het met Suid-Afrikaanse veiligheidsmagte en SWAPO-gevangenes vergader wat erken het dat hulle bevele van hul bevelvoerders gevolg het om basisse onder VN-



Die Bevelvoerder van 61 Meg Bn, kmdt Mike Muller (derde van links) in gesprek met Lt kol Yunos (derde van regs), terwyl ander lede van UNTAG bystaan.

toesig op te rig. Die amptenare het aangedring op maksimum selfbeheersing en oplossing van die situasie. SWAPO ontken dat hulle wapenstilstand oortree het en blameer Suid-Afrikaanse magte vir die aanval op vreedsame vieringe, terwyl Suid-Afrika beweer dat SWAPO steeds met die gewapende stryd voortgaan.

'n VN-verslag spreek kommer uit oor geweld en ongevallen in Namibië en alle partye versoek om die skikkingsvoorstel te respekteer en selfbeheersing aan die dag te lê. Die Suid-Afrikaanse Minister van Buitelandse Sake het gewaarsku teen die teenwoordigheid van SWAPO-magte en die moontlike ineenstorting van vredesproses tensy opgetree word. Die Sekretaris-Generaal stel 'n wapenstilstand en onder toesig vergaderpunte voor vir die terugkeer van SWAPO gewapende personeel na Namibië. Front-linie state aanvaar voorstelle.

Op 7 April het die Sekretaris-Generaal aan die Veiligheidsraad verslag gedoen oor voortdurende gevegte en 200 sterftes in die gebied. UNTAG-personeel is vinnig ontplooi en die Raad het bykomende ondersteuning gebied. Die Sekretaris-Generaal het ook 'n wapenstilstand voorgestel. Suid-Afrika het

die voorstelle verwerp en Namibië se SWAPO-leier het magte beveel om op te hou vegte en sou hy binne 72 uur aan UNTAG verslag doen. 'n Gesamentlike kommissie het by Mount Etjo vergader om hertoewyding tot die vredesproses te bespreek en om UNTAG-ontplooiing aan te dring. Gedetailleerde ooreenkomste oor onttrekking en implementering is deur drie regerings en ander onderteken.

Onder UNTAG-toesig het SWAPO-magte in Namibië ingestem om hul wapens in aangewese gebiede in Angola oor te gee. Die onttrekkingsproses sou op radio uitgesaai word en deur amptenare geverifieer word. Die situasie voor 1 April sou herstel word. Die Sekretaris-Generaal het SWAPO se aankondiging op 8 April verwelkom en die voortslepende probleme in Namibië op 9 April met die Veiligheidsraad bespreek. Die Mount Etjo-verklaring is egter nie ten volle geïmplementeer nie, wat gelei het tot uitdagings vir UNTAG om terugkerende SWAPO-magte in Angola te beskerm. 'n Vergadering op 20 April het bepaal dat alle Suid-Afrikaanse veiligheidsmagte vir 60 uur na hul basis sal terugkeer om die veilige deurgang van SWAPO-magte na Angola te vergemaklik.

9 APRIL 1989: MOUNT ETJO DECLARATION WAS SIGNED BY SOUTH AFRICA, CUBA AND ANGOLA



PHOTO: 56 MEMBER DELEGATIONS FROM SOUTH AFRICA, CUBA AND ANGOLA WITH SOVIET AND AMERICAN OBSERVERS MET AT MT ETJO GAME LODGE NEAR OTJIWARONGO ON 8-9 APRIL PIK BOTH A THIRD FROM LEFT. They agreed on terms for SWAPO guerrillas to return to Angola. They would report to assembly points, hand over their weapons and be returned to north of the 16th parallel 90 miles inside Angola as per independence agreements reached from August to December 1988. It was estimated up to 1,900 fighters had crossed into Namibia. Approximately 282 PLAN guerrillas and 27 policeman and army soldiers were killed in nine days of fighting.

Arie Mooiman

Ons het op twee weke verloff vertrek om weer 30 Maart terug op Omuthiya te wees. Ons is heen en weer gevlieg en die normale padbeweging tussen Omuthiya en Grootfontein. Die meeste van die kompanie was teen 31 Maart terug, maar nie almal nie. En toe op 1 April het Swapo oor die grens gestroom. Ons is ontplooi.

Sommer van vroeg af op 1 April het die gerugte die rondte gedoen dat Swapo in massa oor die grens gestroom het.

Omdat dit 1 April was het almal gedink dit is 'n "Aprils Fool"grap. Hoe later dit geword het, hoe meer het ons besef dat daar miskien waarheid in steek. Dit was eers toe ons opdrag ontvang het dat ons met kit by die Ratels moes aanmeld dat dit ernstig begin lyk het. Maar selfs toe het ons nog halfhartig gewonder of dit nie maar net 'n manier was van die leiergroep om ons besig en parraat te hou nie. Eers toe ons begin beweeg, het die dodelike erns deurgedring.

Die 9 Dae Oorlog

1 tot 3 April

Die eerste twee dae kon ons geen aanduiding van Swapo kry nie.

Op 3 April het ons baie vroeg die Swapo spoor gekry. Ons was weer saam met 101 Bn. Ons het heeldag op die spoor gebly. Dit was moeilik om te volg omdat as ons te naby gekom het,



het hulle die besproeiings kanaal gekruis. Dan moes ons met die voertuie eers weer 'n kruising soek. Net om weer die spoor te hervat todat hulle weer na die anderkant van die kanaal kruis. Laatmiddag om 17:03 toe slaan ons kontak.

Toe die kontak begin het Koevoet van die kant af ingekom en deel van die aanval geword. Dit was maar 'n deurmekaarspul met voertuie wat oral jaag en skiet. Dit is daar waar 2 Lt Els geskiet was. Waarskynlik deur 'n Koevoet dwaal koeël. Daar het so 'n paar Swapo's gesneuwel.

4 April tot 20 Julie

Ons het eers weer terug gekeer na Omuthiya op 20 Julie. Die ontplooiing op 1 April was so skielik en onverwags dat meeste van ons net een stel Browns saamgevat het. Soos die weke verbygegaan het, het ons maar ons klere aangevul as iemand toevallig terug Omuthiya toe gegaan het. Ons moes oorleef vir byna 4 maande leef en oorleef met dit wat ons gehad het.



Tydens die 9 Dag Oorlog (1 tot 9 April) het ons met mobiele patrollies die gebied tussen Ruacana en Oshakati aktief deurkruis. En toe dit verby was het ons voortgegaan met gebiedspatrollies. Ons het nie weer Swapo terreë raakge-loop nie, maar Koevoet het wel. Koevoet het hulle “kills” afgevoer na die naaste SAW basis. Van daar af is die headcount dan deurgegee en was die lyke beskikbaar vir verifikasie deur UNTAG. Van die lyke was redelik voos geskiet en is op die modderskerms vasgemaak om te verseker dat die bemannings kompartement nie met bloed bemors word nie.

Behalwe vir 3 April se groot kontak waar 2 Lt Els gesneuwel het, het ons geen verdere kontakte beleef nie.

Na 2 Lt Els se dood was ons maar skepties vir Koevoet. Dat hulle suksesse behaal het, dit is so. Maar om saam met 'n georganiseerde mag soos 61 Meg te werk het probleme en fatale foute tot gevolg gehad.

Ons het ons Pro Patria Medaljes en ons 61 Messies net na die 9 Dag oorlog ontvang.



Kpl L. Bezuidenhout, Pl 3, B Komp

Gedurende ops Merlyn was ons kompanie deel van Lt. C. Els se Tank Afweer support. Dit het ewe skielik geklink of die hel los is. Skote het geklap en jy kon hoor hoe ons Ratel soms getref word. Die Caspirs wat ons ondersteun het, het in 'n agt-vormige patroon gery en goed soos krekters by die “hatches” uitgegooi, natuurlik om die vyand se koppe af te hou. Ons peloton 3 bevelvoerder op die oomblik was Kpl. Cloete. Kpl. Cloete het van die Kompanie bevelvoerder, Lt. Gray gehoor dat daar 'n persoon geskiet is en ons moet ondersteun.

Kpl. Cloete het vir my geskree om Lt. Gray te help wat klaar by die Ratel 90 was. Ek weet net ons Ratel deur het oop gegaan en ek het uit gespring en hoor hoe skree Lt. Gray op my om bo op die Ratel 90 te kom en hom te help. Dit was erg want toe word daar eers geskiet, natuurlik om ons te beskerm. Ek kon Lt. Els in die Ratel se toring sien waar hy afgesak het en tussen die deur en die drywer in gegly het, daarom dat hulle nie die Ratel deur kon oopkry nie.

Ek en Lt. Gray het Lt. Els aan sy panser uniform opgetel en uit die toring getel waar ons hom van die Ratel afgetel het en hom op die grond neer gelê het. Ek het toe eers gesien dat hy in die kop geskiet is. Die volgende oomblik was die helikopter, 'n dokter en nog twee medics op die toneel. Die dokter het dadelik bevel om Lt. Els in helikopter te kry. Hulle het hom “gecasevac”.

Ek is terug na my Ratel waar ek verneem het dat Kpl. Cloete in die hand geskiet is en hy by die kompanie medics was. Almal in die voertuig het daar gesit - woordeloos. Ek het begin bewe en kon nie glo wat so pas gebeur het nie. Dit het alles deur my kop gemaak. Lt. Els se gunner was so geskok en het so gehuil. Die drywer wou help maar kon nie want Lt. Els was half bo oor hom. Ons het die kontak punt verlaat maar dit het soos 'n ewigheid gevoel. Ek het die volgende dag verneem dat Lt. C. Els oorlede is...

BATTLE GROUP JULIET DEPLOYMENT RUACANA NOVEMBER 1978

As the decades roll on and on, one might think that everything that could be said about a specific event has already been said. Like the story of Battle Group Juliet. But new material continues to emerge as the veterans dig into their long forgotten collections. Like these photos of Roelof J Fourie.



DON'T FORGET !!!



Skouerskuur Kalahari 4 Mei 2024

Plek: Maki Saki
Duvenhage Straat 28 Postmasburg
Tyd 12h00



Skouerskuur Kalahari - 4 Mei 2024



Program

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| • 12h00 -14h00 | Meet Greet |
| • 14h00 | Opening |
| • 14h15 – 15h00 | Inligting sessie en
pad vorentoe
gesprek |
| • 15H00 | Veiling |
| • 15H30 | Braai en kuier (Eie
tyd eie teiken) |

Algemeen

- Braai Pakke R100-00 (Belangrik dat ons totale het vooraf)
- Postmasburg lede sorg v by kosse (As iemand bydrae wil maak is hulle welkom)
- Daar kontant kroeg met min verskeidenheid, so jul welkom om eie koelboks te bring met eie verversings.
- Die plan is om peusel happie te bedien gedurende die middag. Julie is ook welkom om iets aam te bring l die verband.
- Hout en ys vir geleentheid word deur Jaco en Gert verskaf (Ouens moet maar net eie ys vir sy eie koelboks verskaf)
- Veiling en skenkings
 - Mense wat 61 Items wil skenk vir veiling kan asb so maak. Iemad het reeds n 61 kep aangebied.
 - Geld gaan vir 61 Meg Bewarings fonds



RSVP ASB Voor 01 May 2024 16h00

Gert - 082 378 0227 Jaco- 082 855 4542

VERJAARDAG WENSE / BIRTHDAY WISHES



Verjaarsdae vir die maand van Mei volgens die informasie beskikbaar op die 61 Meg se databasis.

Help asseblief om dit opgedateer te hou.

Die Veertigers

Willem	Steenkamp	1940/05/02
Roland	de Vries	1944/05/19

Die Vyftigers

Koos Joubert	1951/05/02
Andries Olivier	1953/05/06
Niel Wiid	1954/05/03
Boet Schoeman	1954/05/08
Chris Oosthuizen	1956/05/15
Pierre William Holding	1956/05/17
Coenraad van der Nest	1957/05/01
Manus Myburgh	1957/05/05
Eric Kahn	1958/05/10
Jacques Du Randt	1959/05/11
Dan Modzelewski	1959/05/26

Gavin James	1965/05/19
David Barry	1965/05/22
Danie Botha	1965/05/24
Brian Alexander	1966/05/09
William Vermaak	1966/05/13
Alan Mackinnon	1967/05/08
Theuns Carelse	1967/05/10
Christiaan Odendaal	1967/05/11
Andrew McManus	1967/05/25
Carel van der Merwe	1967/05/30
Andries Schreuder	1967/05/31
Alexander Sean Robbertze	1968/05/01
David Bezuidenhout	1968/05/07
Howard Smith	1968/05/11
Coenraad Paul Herbst	1968/05/19
Clifton Sudano	1968/05/23
Schalk van Greunen	1969/05/16
Frederick (Freddie) Coetzee	1969/05/19
Danie Landsberg	1969/05/21
William Robert Weedman	1969/05/26

Die Sestigters

Andre Bezuidenhout	1960/05/01
Anton le Roux	1960/05/05
Kobus Klopper	1960/05/06
Renier Mostert	1960/05/12
Koos Cronje	1960/05/28
Tertius Zitzke	1961/05/03
Pierre Anton Du Plooy	1961/05/04
MC Eloff	1961/05/12
Gert Minnaar	1961/05/14
PG Meintjes	1961/05/17
Gordon Williams	1961/05/20
Deon Rossouw	1961/05/29
Kobus van der Westhuizen	1962/05/04
Mike Harper	1962/05/06
Gregory Pegden	1962/05/09
Kevin Davy	1962/05/17
Jan Prinsloo	1962/05/18
Leon de Bruin	1962/05/20
Vincent Aslett	1962/05/25
Nico Nel	1962/05/25
Laurie Claase	1962/05/30
Keith Hockly	1963/05/03
Jan Olivier	1963/05/06
David Cimma	1963/05/18
Russell Kleyn	1964/05/14
Machiel (Pine) Pienaar	1964/05/14
Herman Pienaar	1964/05/22
Mark Anthony Farrell	1965/05/08

Die Sewentigers

Attie Christie	1970/05/05
Phillip Swanepoel	1970/05/23
Clyde Jerome Bodenham	1972/05/01
Morgan Ryan	1972/05/02
Rudi van der Merwe	1972/05/05
Jacques van der Westhuizen	1972/05/08
Bernhard Coetzer	1972/05/09
Basil Strauss	1972/05/10
Louis Engelbrecht	1973/05/11
Nicolaas Johannes Geldenhuys	1974/05/18
Martin du Plessis	1974/05/30

Die Tagtigters en aan

Don Emslie	1986/05/09
Kyle Harmse	1990/05/07
Jesse Warren	1990/05/07
Francois Reinecke	1990/05/25

Die Kapelaan as Soldaat

'n Kapelaan in die Bos het dit nie altyd maklik gehad nie. Hy moes baie gou aanpas en leer radios beman, inligtingsklerk word, sy radiobeat doen en deel word van die voertuig waarin hy gery het. Hy moes altyd sterk staan. Hy moes die voorbeeld stel ten opsigte van vertroue in die beskerming van die Allerhoogste.

Wat ook al denominasie, die kapelaan was die verteenwoordiger van spiritualiteit, nie noodwendig 'n spesifieke godsdiens nie. Dit was beslis 'n uitdaging op sy eie.

Maar hulle was net mense met hulle eie wroeginge en vrese. Dit vat 'n besondere persoon om 'n Bos Kapelaan te wees.



Oorsigtelik

In die 1960's en 1970's het die Suid-Afrikaanse Weermag militêre kapelaanskap geprofessionaliseer deur die onafhanklike Suid-Afrikaanse Kapelaansdiens (SACHS) te stig. SACHS het ten doel gehad om godsdiensvryheid vir alle SAW-lede te verseker deur kapelane uit verskillende denominasies te kies wat georden en fisies fiks was.

Die Kapelaan-generaal het in 1975 'n sleutellid van die Opperbevel geword, en 'n nuwe SSO-posisie is in 1977 geskep. In 1978 het die SACHS die primêre instelling vir geestelike bediening aan die weermag geword. Die SACHS is in 1981 herstruktureer om by ander afdelings van die SAW in lyn te kom, en deelydse kapelane het minder verteenwoordigde denominasies bedien.

Kapelane het in die vroeë jare opleiding ontvang in militêre gefokusde kursusse. Dit het hulle in staat gestel om soldate beter te ondersteun tydens tye van oorlog en krisis, met inagneming van verskillende godsdiensstige praktyke. 'n Opleidingsentrum is in 1976 geopen, en pogings is aangewend om opvoedkundige materiaal in verskeie tale aan te bied. Die eerste swart kapelaan het 'n kursus in 1978 bygewoon, en 'n program vir kapelaansvroue is in die laat 1970's ingestel. Teologiese studente het vanaf 1977 as Nasionale Diensmanne (NSM) kapelane begin dien. Hulle het dieselfde opleiding as ander rekrute ontvang en vaardighede en bediening aan hulle eweknieë verskaf. Die eerste vroulike kapelaan is in 1983 aangestel.

Kapelane in militêre kampe in die operasionele gebied het geestelike bediening aan soldate verskaf, met Kapelane van verskeie magte wat saamgewerk het. Aanvanklik was daar probleme met verblyf en verveling wat tot alkoholmisbruik gelei het. Die SAW en SACHS het hierdie probleme aangespreek deur materiaal te verskaf en vermaak te organiseer. Koffiekroeë het gewild geword as sosiale en godsdiensstige sentrums, met hul getalle wat teen 1984 van 4 tot 48 gegroei het.

Spesiale Bataljons

Plaaslike inwoners en Angolese vlugtelinge is

vanaf 1974 gewerf om in die Suid-Afrikaanse Weermag (SAW) te dien, en het etniese bataljons soos byvoorbeeld 201 Bataljon met Sanmense gevorm. Hierdie soldate het 'n mengsel van tradisionele en Christelike oortuigings beoefen en geestelike ondersteuning van FM Mahongo en later Kpln (Eerw) Theron ontvang. Hy het ook bediening verskaf aan 32 Bn wat in Buffalo gestasioneer was. Vader Bonifacius het aanvanklik die groep bedien weens taalhindernisse, totdat Pastoor IKA de Almeida aangestel is. Kpln (Eerw) Theron het ook gereël vir die dienste van ander kapelane, insluitend Kpln (Eerw) NG Armstrong en burgerlike priesters. Kpln (Eerw) SHA Middlemost het oorgrenseksedisies vergesel. In 1989 is die groep na die Noord-Kaap verskuif.

701 Bataljon, gelei deur prediker JM Kalonda, was saamgestel uit 742 Oos-Kapriviers, meestal Sewendedag Adventiste, en het teenstand van swart kerke ondervind. 101 Bataljon, bestaande uit 2 000 Ovambo's, het beperkte kapelaanondersteuning gehad en 'n kerk in Ondangwa gebou. Kpln (Ds) EM van Wyngaardt het as kapelaan gedien totdat alle Suid-Afrikaanse kapelane in 1989 herroep is.

Die Kapelaan tydens oorgrens-operasies

Operasie Savannah, 1975-1976

Tydens Operasie Savannah het 108 kapelane troepe ontplooi, maar is nie toegelaat om Bybels te dra nie weens die geheimhouding van die operasie. Kapelaan MCK Loots het 'n Portugese Bybel gebruik om gevange Kubane te bedien. 2 SAI Bn het 'n sleutelrol gespeel met die hulp van kapelaan (ds) Visser en later kapelaan (ds) D Goodenough wat 'n bussie van UNITA-leier Jonas Savimbi ontvang het.

Operasie Savannah het verskeie probleme uitgelik. Kapelane was hoofsaaklik by mediese poste ontplooi. Die ervaring wat tydens Operasie Savannah opgedoen is, het gelei tot die slagspreek:

"So informeel as moontlik, en so ver vorentoe as moontlik".

Kapelane het bemanningslede in vegvoertuie geword en was aan dieselfde gevare as die res blootgestel.

Oorgrens-operasies, 1978-1989

Die eerste oorgrensoperasie ná Operasie Savannah was *Operasie Reindeer* in Mei 1978 en was vergesel deur Kpln (Ds) RP Jordaan.

In Junie 1980 het *Operasie Skeptic* plaasgevind vergesel deur Kpln (Ds) Bezuidenhout en Lt AH le Roux. Vanaf 1981 het PLAN se infiltrasie meer gesofistikeerd geraak wat gelei het tot *Operasie Protea* in 1981 vergesel deur Kpln (Ds) Bezuidenhout, Kpln (Ds) B Buitendag, Lt JJ Pretorius, Lt GJ Rossouw en Lt GJ van Wyk.

Aan die einde van die jaar het Kpln W Viljoen by *Operasie Daisy* aangesluit. Dominee LA Bouwer en JG Lindeque het in Mei 1983 aan *Operasie Dolfyn* deelgeneem. Tydens hierdie operasie moes dominee Bouwer bevel neem by Ongiva. Vanaf 1983 het die konflik toegeneem, met SWATF wat 70% van die gevegte hanteer het. Intussen het onluste in swart *townships* in SA ge-eskaleer, wat gelei het tot groter steun van die SAW vir die SAP. In SWA/Angola was 17 kapelane betrokke by *Operasie Askari* vanaf Desember 1983 tot Januarie 1984. Van Junie tot Julie 1985 was dominee JW van Niekerk en Lt FJC Oosthuizen deel van *Operasie Boswilger*. Hulle is ook ontplooi tydens *Operasie Benzine* in 1986. In Junie het dominee SHA Middlemost gedien tydens *Operasie Suiderkruis*.

Tydens *Operasie Modulêr* in 1987 is daar besluit dat elke vegspan 'n kapelaan moet hê. Daarbenewens sou daar 'n ekstra kapelaan by die gevegshoofkwartier en 'n senior kapelaan by die taakmaghoofkwartier wees. Operasie Modulêr het van Julie tot Desember 1987 plaasgevind, met 'n totaal van sewentien kapelane wat diens gedoen het. Weens 'n gebrek aan hul eie voertuig, moes kapelane staatmaak op reis saam met bevelvoerders, wat dit vir hulle uitdagend gemaak het om hul pligte doeltreffend uit te voer. Kapelaan (ds) Visser van 61 Gemegani-

seerde Bataljon was die enigste kapelaan wat sy eie voertuig en bemanning gehad het. In totaal het veertien kapelane aan Operasie Moduler deelgeneem. agt in *Operasie Hooper* (die uitbreiding van Operation Moduler) en ses in *Operasie Packer*, wat Operasie Hooper opgevolg het.

Operasie Hunter het vanaf Mei 1987 tot Maart 1988 plaasgevind en was 'n Spesiale Magte-sending vergesel deur Kpln (Ds) CS Schoeman van 5 Verkenningsregiment. Die inligting wat tydens hierdie operasie ingesamel is, het gelei tot Operasie Firewood, waar Kplns (Ds) SG van Niekerk en CF Sieberhagen by die beplanning betrokke was. Kpln (Ds) Sieberhagen het ook die troepe vergesel. Die finale operasie,

Operasie Excite, het in Augustus 1988 plaasgevind met Kpln (Ds) LA Bouwer, Kpln (Ds) JW van Niekerk, en Lt GJ Olivier wat deelgeneem het. Diplomatieke onderhan-

delinge en die ondertekening van 'n ooreenkoms by Ruacana op 22 Augustus 1988 het gelei tot die einde van vyandelikhede en die implementering van VN-resolusie 435. Tydens oorgrens-operasies het kapelane 'n unieke geleentheid gehad om die Evangelie te deel met soldate wat met vrees, trauma en ander uitdagings te kampe gehad het. Die SACHS het struktuur en ondersteuning vir geestelike bediening verskaf aan diegene wat sukkel met angs, vrees, heimwee, hartseer en woede. Kapelane se teenwoordigheid tydens operasies het oop kommunikasie en pastorale sorg moontlik gemaak. Diensplig kapelane het bevind dat soldate in die veld ontvanklik was vir godsdienbesprekings, met 92% wat kapelane positief beskou het tydens operasies.

BROKKIES OOR 61 MEG KAPELANE

Roland de Vries

Op die afmarslyn Ops Protea: Tyd nou vir 'n paar vinnige gebede, vriendelike kopknik hier en daar, die finale skoonmaak van gevalle blare en rommel uit die oop meganismes van die 20 mm vinnige vuurgewere van die Ratsels Finale bevestiging van die gevegsgroep se bevele het gevolg en 'n vinnige duime-tussen die onderskeie gevegspartye, dié wat mekaar in die oog gehad het. Ons kapelaan, Koos Rossouw, het tussen 'n paar voertuie rondgevlieg en vinnig gesels met die troepe, dié wat bo-op hul masjiene gesit het en nie slaap nie.

Gert Minnaar

Ds Koos Rossouw was ons kapelaan by 61 Meg Bataljon Groep in 1981. Hy was 'n wonderlike plat op die aarde mens gewees met 'n droë sin vir humor wat ek nogals geniet het. Ek kan onthou hoe ontsteld hy was met 'n kerkdiens voor die inoefen-

ing waar die 120 mm mortiere tussen Bravo-kompanie se karre geval het en Lionel van Rooyen dood is, toe die boshod met die kollektegeld nie te voorskyn gekom het nie.



Ds Koos Rossouw (Regs)

Andrew Whitaker

Ds Braam Le Roux. Chaplain at 61 Mech in 1980. What a wonderful man, I can never forget the excitement that he showed by being included in the force to take part in operation Sceptic (Smokeshell) and encountering this large man on the battlefield, armed with a 9 mm pistol.

This is what I said at the remembrance ceremony that we held on the battlefield on 10 July 2022.

I'm not a religious man. As a "soutie" our religious needs were not very well attended to. As a Catholic I and many others were abandoned by our church, who refused to send Priests to the border, and most other traditional English churches paid lip service to our needs and would send a minister to the area every 2 or 3 months. There was no formal counselling program for the trauma these young boys faced. But enter a giant of a man, sadly no longer with us, Dominee Braam Le Roux. He actively sought out and befriended many of us young English speakers and gave us the closest thing to Psychological counselling possible. He was with us on that day and went onto do great things working amongst the Bushmen people in the Ghanzi district in Botswana. He sadly passed away in 2009, but I believe his wife, Wilhemein, continues with his life's work. It was a privilege to call him a friend and a brother.

Roland de Vries

Tydens Ops Daisy het die tiffies teen spesifieke instruksies 'n traporrel uit 'n kerk verwyder. Terug op Omuthiya het Ds Koos Rossouw daarop beslag gelê. Ek het niks daarvan geweet nie tot ek toevallig by Ds Rossouw se kapelaanstent by Omuthiya verby gestap het en 'n ernstige maar ietwat melodieuze rumoer hoor ... Tot my verbasing het Koos en van sy volgelinge lustig saam gesing aan 'n Christelike lied vergader rondom 'n ou Dorslandtrekker traporrel.

Dudley Wall's diary Askari

The chaplain of 5 Recce Regiment then conducted a Christmas service for us all. He was a wiry fellow with a big beard and sported an AK-

47 rifle that he carried with him in one hand. In the other was his Bible. (He) climbed on to the nose of a Ratel and preached about the birth of Christ and the significance of Christmas Day for mankind. We sang a few hymns out of the Defence Force hymn-books that had been passed around, and once the service was concluded we all returned to our positions. The rest of the day was spent under camouflage nets next to our vehicles sweltering away the hot daylight hours before making the next move against the enemy.

Askari

On 19 December Cmdt van Lill set about isolating Cahama. At 4.30am X-Ray was on the road, and by 4 pm it was laagered about 30 km north of the town. The base was now effectively cut off from Chibemba and points north. An hour later Van Lill called an order group. Next day there would be a feint attack on Cahama, in broad daylight so that the defenders could see who they were dealing with.

Scott recorded the details in his diary:

"Tomorrow we have to go into Cahama (along the tarred road from Chibemba) and see what we get." The combat element would be two armoured car troops, Scott's being one, and two mechanised platoons. "Chaplain ... came to pray for us and our next of kin (for those who wouldn't make it).

Hugo Vermaak Askari 21 Dec

Dit het geblyk dat 'n FAPLA-waarnemer naby die brug die hinderlaagpeloton opgemerk het en artillerievuur op hulle versoek het. Gelukkig vir die hinderlaagpeloton, en ongelukkig vir ons, het die artilleriegranate hulle oorval en op die mortierposisie beland.

Die kapelaan wat by die hinderlaagpeloton was, het besluit dat hy na ons posisie wil onttrek. Twee troepe het hom vergesel. Vir sowat 1 000 meter was dit hardloop, dekking soek, hardloop. Die kapelaan was baie moeg toe hy ons posisie bereik het. Ons was gelukkig, geen beserings opgedoen nie, maar dit het ons beslis voorberei op wat om in die toekoms te verwag.



Kpln Johan van Niekerk tydens afvoer van gewondes te Calueque



Kpln Johan van Niekerk



Koffiekroeg Omuthiya 1986



To be a chaplain on the front of the brunt of war
Is to bear witness to horrors no one should endure
Amidst the chaos, pain and bloodshed galore
My conscience is torn, my heart heavy and unsure

I am meant to provide solace, offer a guiding light
But how can I bring comfort in this dark night
When all around me, I see death and despair
My prayers feel hollow, my words fall on deaf ears

Each day I walk alongside brave soldiers and knights
Their faith shaken, their spirits crushed in the fight
I try to keep hope alive, to mend broken souls
But in this war, even the strongest spirit tolls

I see young men lose their lives, families weep
Their bodies broken, their dreams forever asleep
And I am left questioning, what is this war for
To sacrifice so many, just to settle a score?

To be a chaplain on the front of the brunt of war
Is to carry the weight of humanity's scar
My soul aches, my heart breaks, as I witness it all
And I pray for peace, for this war to end, once and for all.



IN MEMORIUM

MEMORIAL SERVICE



DEMETRI GORDON FRIEND

1 JULY 1957 – 2 APRIL 2024

THURSDAY 11 APRIL 2024 AT 11:00

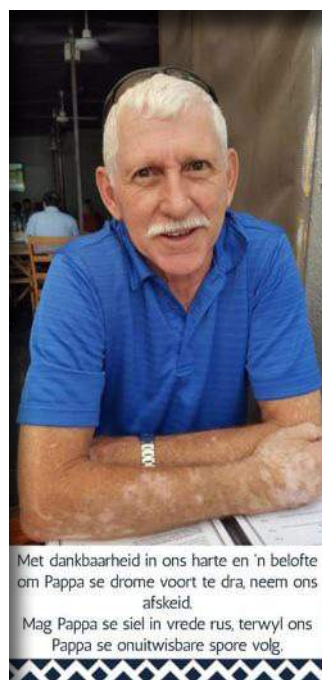
DOXA DEO RASLOUW
178 ALETTA AVE • CENTURION • PRETORIA

Service will be streamed live for those who cannot attend

MILITARY GUESTS: DRESS CODE 1A
MILITARY VETERANS: AFFILIATION DRESS WITH MEDALS
VETERAN ORGANISATIONS TO PRESENT THEIR BANNERS
ENQUIRIES: +27 (0)82 490 1653 • ADMIN@61MECH.ORG.ZA

Nikki Friend

I truly do not have enough words to express our gratitude to Manus Myburgh and all from 61Mech, as well as other veteran organizations, who helped us, supported us and ensured we could lay our Beloved husband and father to rest and peacefully grieve our loss. I know Demetri would have been most grateful and appreciative of all you did and still do to help. His legacy will live on and his son Nikolai will continue his dad's work and support as he was being trained to do. Demetri lived to help his fellow veterans, and would want us to continue in his footsteps. His shoes are too big to fill but with his guidance we will ensure he still leaves footprints behind. Demetri was very proud to be part of the 61 brotherhood, and very honored to have been able to accepted by all. We thank everyone for giving him that opportunity. From all of us His wife Nikki, Son Nikolai, daughter Samantha and his baby girl and boy Storm and Lionelle, plus his Step children and Grandchildren, we thank you for everything. We know he will continue to live on in many people's hearts too. LOVE, HONOUR AND RESPECT TO EVERYONE



Met dankbaarheid in ons harte en 'n belofte om Pappa se drome voort te dra, neem ons afskeid.
Mag Pappa se siel in vrede rus, terwyl ons Pappa se onuitwisbare spore volg.

IN LIEFDEVOLLE HERINNERING AAN

**THEODORUS CORNELIUS
KRITZINGER WILKEN**
13/01/1953 - 15/04/2024

GEDENKDIENS BESONDERHEDE:

DATUM: 29 APRIL 2024
TYD: 11:00
PLEK: NEDERDUITSE GEREFORMEERDE KERK
PHALABORWA
88 GROSVENORSTRAAT, PHALABORWA, 1390

JOU TEENWOORDIGHEID SAL BAIE VIR ONS BETEKEN.
RSVP VOOR 25 APRIL.
DIT SAL ONS HELP OM DIE NODIGE REËLINGS TE TREF.

A photograph of several lit red candles, creating a warm and solemn atmosphere.

SAFETY



The number of incidents in which criminals throw spikes across a road to stop vehicles is increasing at an alarming rate. Abridged Article by Mike Bolhuis

the use of various devices by criminals to rob motorists on highways, such as spike strips and stingers. They also use deceptive methods, like disguising dangerous objects, to stop vehicles and steal valuables. Motorists should be cautious, especially at night, as it is a prime time for criminals to strike. South African highways, with their high speeds and low visibility, make it difficult to identify dangerous objects before it is too late. The desolate rural roads also pose a risk for drivers.

To reduce the risk of encountering obstacles or hazards on the road: avoid driving over objects, change lanes before passing under bridges, reduce speed, drive two lanes, maintain a safe following distance, drive across island if safe, move to emergency lane or grass when spotting an obstacle, stick to speed limit in high risk areas, remain calm and do not stop if hit by object, drive to nearest place of safety, avoid engaging with criminals, contact authorities if you see suspicious activity, know high-risk roads and keep phone charged and location on while driving alone.

DON'T FORGET !!!

Ons gaan ons eerste **Noordkaap Kalahari** skouerskuur Saterdag 4 Mei hou. Die manne wat nie by Gariep gaan wees nie kan dit beslis te oorweeg om by ons aan te sluit.

Kontak Jaco Cloete of Gert Agenbag vir detail.

This is the opinion of the author and does not necessarily reflect the views of 61MVA.

Is the South African National Defence Force upto the challenge?

Abridged Article. (Source: DEFENCEWEB - Dean Wingrin . 18th April 2024).

The South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) Western Cape Branch hosted a discussion on the SANDF's mandate, where Professor Abel Esterhuyse questioned if the SANDF can fulfil its domestic and international duties.

Esterhuyse highlighted that global funding for peacekeeping missions is decreasing and efforts are shifting towards regionalization. This presents challenges for South Africa, which has a history of involvement in continental peacekeeping. The SANDF is now operating in a "post-peacekeeping era" with a decline in global support for traditional peacekeeping missions, posing significant challenges.

He pointed out the obstacles the SANDF faces during peacekeeping missions, such as regional conflicts, lack of funding, and limited resources which can hinder their effectiveness. He also emphasized the need for clear goals and exit plans in military operations, questioning the lack of these in previous missions.

"The challenge is that the military is part of the solution. But the military is not the solution," he explained, highlighting the need for holistic approaches to peacekeeping."

Esterhuyse discussed the importance of proper defense planning in South Africa, emphasizing the need for civilian expertise and public debate in shaping military strategies. He highlighted the need to balance budget constraints and security threats, stressing the importance of understanding both internal and external threats.

He stresses that defense planning and policy should not be driven by military bureaucracy but by top-down processes involving wide consultations. He believes military should provide information and advice, but decision-making should consider crucial realities, such as threats and budget constraints. The 2015 Defense Review was criticized for not doing so.

Esterhuyse discussed how the role of armed forces has expanded to include more than just traditional war fighting, and soldiers now need skills like diplomacy and civil-military collaboration. He questioned if the South African military is preparing soldiers adequately for this new reality, warning that a focus on human security may have led to underinvestment in traditional military capabilities, potentially leaving the country vulnerable to conventional threats.

He thinks the SANDF is currently lacking in intelligence capabilities, reserve forces, and is top-heavy with too many officers in Pretoria and not enough soldiers deployed operationally, making it difficult for the military to effectively respond to security challenges.

Esterhuyse emphasised the importance of bridging the gap between constitutional mandates and operational realities. "With clear strategic objectives and robust planning processes, the SANDF can effectively meet its constitutional obligations and contribute to regional stability and security," he concluded.

**STATEMENT ON CONCLUSION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL TASK TEAM
ON MILITARY VETERANS CHAIRED BY DEPUTY PRESIDENT
SHIPOKOSA PAULUS MASHATILE
DATE: 18 APRIL 2024**

Deputy President Shipokosa Paulus Mashatile has today, Thursday, 18 April 2024, concluded a special meeting of the Presidential Task Team (PTT) on Military Veterans which he convened in order to engage on matters that require intervention and support measures to resolve identified challenges with respect to provision of benefits and socio-economic support for Military Veterans.

The Presidential Task Team on Military Veterans, chaired by the Deputy President was appointed by President Cyril Ramaphosa, to ensure that issues which were raised with government in relation to Military Veterans' benefits, support and status are addressed.

The task team comprises the Deputy President, the Minister in the Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation as well as the Minister and Deputy Minister of Defense and Military Veterans.

Since its establishment, the PTT has held continuous consultations, both at a national and provincial levels to better understand the challenges faced by Military Veterans that need to be resolved.

Furthermore, in dealing with the broad spectrum of concerns, seven technical work streams were constituted, to oversee, the resolution of specific areas, including in relation to their well-being.

The following workstreams were thus formed: Legisl Legislative Review; Organizational Re-design; Database Verification, Cleansing and Enhancement; Socio-economic Support; Pensions and Benefits; Heritage, Memorialisation and Burial Support; as well as Communications.

In this regard, the meeting received presentations on the performance of work-streams as well as challenges and interventions required to accel-

erate the delivery of services to the veterans.

The meeting welcomed the reports on the performance of work-streams and in particular reported progress achieved in dispensing pension benefits to Military Veterans.

To this end, the Department of Military Veterans presented a status update on the rollout of pension benefits to relevant beneficiaries. Since the gazetting of pension benefits, over 1600 applications have accordingly been approved, with over 700 of those fully paid to date.

The task team expressed concern about the slow pace at which the Military Veterans were receiving their pension benefits and also noted that over 950 applications had not been finally processed due to outstanding banking details.

The meeting agreed on the need to strengthen the effective, timely and coordinated communication between Government and Military Veterans.

"This Presidential Task Team is dedicated to ensuring that the plight of Military Veterans is given the highest priority in every Government programme on every level, and takes its mandate and the ongoing issues encountered by veterans very seriously. We must collaborate to ensure that there is concerted efforts to better the economic and social conditions of our nation's veterans in light of the unique challenges they face", said Deputy President Mashatile.

The Task Team further agreed on convening a National Consultative Summit with Military Veterans in the month of May 2024, in the Gauteng Province. The National Consultative Summit will be convened to offer a platform to report progress achieved in resolving concerns raised by Military Veterans.

In concluding the meeting, Deputy President Mashatile said as the country prepares to celebrate 30 years of freedom and democracy ushered on 27th April 1994, there was no better timing than now to honour and commemorate Military Veterans.

“It is crucial to recognize that without the sacrifices and courage of our Military Veterans, the path to freedom and democracy in South Africa would have been much more arduous and challenging. It is crucial for Government to exhibit our gratitude for the significant part

they have played in our achievement of freedom by acknowledging and providing support to them, enabling them to lead a gratifying existence”, Deputy President reiterated.

Enquiries: Mr Keith Khoza, Acting Spokesperson to the Deputy President on 066 195 8840

Issued
The
Union
Pretoria

by:
Presidency
Buildings

DON'T FORGET !!!



RMVO SA Jaarlikse Gedenkdien
CMVO SA Annual Memorial Service

SA Weermag Muur van Herinnering
SA Defence Force Wall of Remembrance

Voortrekkermonument
26 Mei/May 2024
09:00
RSVP by 17 May

Dragkode
Militêre gaste : Drag 1A.
Militêre veterane : Affilasie drag met medaljes.
Ander gaste : Formele drag.
'n Hoed is nie verpligtend nie, maar
word aanbeveel vir u gerief.

Tyd
Koffie en tee word bedien van 08h00 tot 09h00.
Alle gaste word versoek om te sit teen 09h30.

Parkering
Parkering is aan die Ooste van die Monument en sal met u aankoms by die terrein aangedui word.
Bussies en gholffkarretjies sal beskikbaar wees vir vervoer na die ontvangsarea.

DON'T FORGET !!!

61 Mech Veterane Vereniging



Kom besoek ons stalletjie by die

**PRO PATRIA MUSEUM
MILITÊRE FEES
Voortrekker Monument
1 Mei 2024
09:00 tot 15:00**



Daar is iets vir almal - Versamelaars, Uitstallers,
"Lewendige" musiek in die Biertuin, Kos stalletjies,
Oorlogsverhale, Veterane Organisasies
& iets vir die dames en kinders

Kaartjies: R50 per volwassene / Kinders (7-18) R25

Bespreek aanlyn en kry vinnige toegang tot die terrein via die Noordelike Hek (R101)